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PATENT  
Docket No. 509192000220

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL"

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 13, 2001.

*Patricia Ellison*  
Patricia Ellison

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Russell A. HOUSER et al.

Serial No.: 09/898,726

Filing Date: July 3, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR  
TREATING TISSUE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3739

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 AND § 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of documents numbered 7, 10; 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, and 40 on the Form PTO-1449 were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement directed to the related application Serial Number 09/602,436 filed on June 23, 2000, and, accordingly, copies are not included herewith. This protocol conforms with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d) and M.P.E.P. 609(A)(2). The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record in the application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☐ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☒ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
  - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of \* is enclosed.
  - ☐ A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below and a check in the amount of \* is enclosed.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

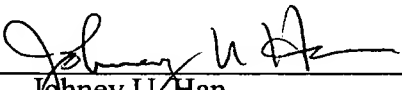
The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to

charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 509192000220. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 13, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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